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The
First School House
in Worcester



and John Adams
School Master



THE
FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE
IN WORCESTER.



DEDICATORY EXERCISES AT THE UNVEILING OF THE TABLET,
MAY 23, 1903, UPON THE SITE OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE
WHERE JOHN ADAMS, SECOND PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES, TAUGHT FROM
1755-1758.

TABLET PLACED AND THIS RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE
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1902-3.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE: THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN WORCESTER.

For scores of years it has been a much-discussed question among local antiquarians whether John Adams, Worcester's most illustrious school master, during his service here, from 1755 to 1758, taught in the first rude building erected near Lincoln Square, or in the second school house near the junction of Mechanic and Main streets. In view of the vote passed by The Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to place a memorial tablet upon the site of the school house where John Adams taught, the Committee on Historical Research of the Chapter made earnest efforts to settle the disputed point, consulting all available data,—published town records, unpublished warrants, diaries and other material.

After the permanent establishment of a town school, in 1727, there were yearly appropriations for the support of the schools, mention of an occasional school master by name with specific directions that "he shall repair to the house of ———, there to keep school until" some prescribed date. In other words there was no school building but "a moving school." The first

direct mention of a school house was in the warrant and vote of October 7, 1729: "Voted, If the town will build a Schoole house it passed on the neggative." This delayed action for four years. At the town meeting May 15, 1733, "it was voted that there be a Schoole-house Built at ye charge of ye Town and placed in ye Centre of ye South half of ye Town or as near as may be with conveniency having regard to suitable ground for such a house to stand on and Whear Land may be purchised in case it falls in men's particular property, provided ye purchis may be on Reasonable Terms." Then follow the votes regarding the dimensions of this first house whose erection was yet delayed for many years. It was to be "24 feet long, 16 feet wide and 7 feet studd, to be compleatly furnished with a good Chimney, Glass, etc." As additional action, "Collo. John Chandler was appointed Surveyor to find the Centre of the south half of the Town."

Difficulties arose over the surveying and also dissatisfaction in the choice of the location. Two years later, May, 1735, the vote was passed to build the school house "at or near the north-west corner of ye Land of John Chandler, Jun. Esqr," etc. Again two years passed without practical results and, at last, in June, 1738, the decisive action was recorded,—“Voted that ye Town Reconsider their Vote last passed for seting ye School-house and order by their vote that ye Schoolhouse be built or set up between ye courthouse and the bridge below ye fulling-mills either above or below the Road.”

The erection must have begun at once for in the "Records of the Proprietors," is a reference, in November, 1738, to a tract of land owned by William Jennison, purchasable "near whear the schoolhouse is now building." Moreover, in appropriating money for the support of the schools the next year, 1739, a portion was reserved "for keeping a Grammar School in ye present schoolhouse."

During the next decade the votes relating to the schools are not of great moment and there is no mention of any new building. In 1752 an article in the warrant for a meeting in March, arranged, "To see if ye Town will give order to some person or persons to Repair Chimney in ye Schoolhouse in ye Centre of ye Town." Combined with this query was one relating to the erection of school houses in "ye Quarters of ye Town." The sequel follows in the records,—a double negative,—"After considerable debate on ye Second and third articles in ye warrant for Repairing the old schoolhouse and building new ones, ye Question was put whether ye town would grant a sum for Services for either of them and it passed in ye negative." One important action was achieved this year, however, to meet the exactions of the law relating to grammar schools:—"that the Inhabitants of the Centre extending one mile and a half around ye Schoolhouse should have allowed them their proportion of money for the support of teaching, provided they do, bona fide, keep a grammar school the whole year; and if their proportion of

money will procure a master more than twelve weeks, the usual time they have of late had schooling, then any person may have liberty to send children afterwards." This vote is followed in Lincoln's "History of Worcester" (p. 252) by an indefinite statement which has caused much misinterpretation,—“About this period a school-house with two rooms was erected by James Putnam, John Chandler and other public-spirited individuals.” Evidence from the two records, however, is conclusive that such a building was not erected until 1763–4.

In 1753 and 1754 there were no votes relating to school houses, but in 1755 the sum appropriated for support of the schools was increased from £60 to £75. The master engaged for that year was John Adams, by his own statement the Town school master, not teacher in any private school had such existed at the time. His throne was in the first, little school house at Lincoln Square. Possibly at the town meeting, 1755, three pages of whose records have been lost, action was taken to repair the chimney in the old school house, a comfort denied three years earlier, as already noted. In 1756 among the expenditures is the following:—“To John Chandler Jun. for makeing stone (?) chimney in the schoolhouse and finding all the materials and paying ye workmen, one pound, two shillings and five pence.”

In John Adams's diary, under date of February 13, 1756, is a note of marked interest,—“Supped at Major Gardiner's and engaged to keep school at Bristol, provided Worcester people at their ensuing March meeting

should change this into a moving school, not otherwise." Here is proof that he was the Town School master,—also that discussion was rife regarding the continuance of the increased appropriation for the grammar school during the entire year. At the March meeting, however, the usual sum was allowed and John Adams remained in Worcester, combining his teaching with law-studies at the office of Judge Putnam. In his Autobiography he wrote,—“Mrs. Putnam had consented I should board in the house, that I should pay no more than the town allowed for my lodgings, and that I should give him (Judge Putnam) one hundred dollars when I should find it convenient.”

In the Town Records of Worcester (Vol. III, pp. 125-6) under date of March 4, 1763, seven years after John Adams had left Worcester, is the permission finally granted to James Putnam and others to build the second school house which was erected near the union of Mechanic and Elm streets with Main.

Through the exhaustive researches of Mr. Daniel Kent, Register of Deeds of Worcester District, the geographical situation of the first school house has been approximately determined, and permission was given to place the tablet upon a granite stone, at the juncture of the land of the American Antiquarian Society and that of the County of Worcester, adjacent to the court house. In front of this stone and tablet stood the first school house in Worcester, honored by the services here of John Adams, afterwards second President of the United States.

The dedicatory exercises were held in the First Unitarian Church, on Court Hill, on the afternoon of Saturday, May 23, 1903. Many distinguished guests were present from Boston and elsewhere as well as representative citizens of Worcester. The galleries were occupied by delegations from the public schools, and an orchestra and chorus from the South High School furnished music in the church. The tablet was unveiled at the close of the formal exercises. A reception and tea, under the management of the Social Committee of the Chapter, Mrs. C. C. Baldwin, Acting Chairman, was then tendered to the invited guests at the adjacent Woman's Club House.

PROGRAMME AND ADDRESSES AT DEDICATION.



Preceded by the Worcester Continentals in uniform, and the two chief ushers, the officers and especial guests of honor entered the church to the music of the Priests' March, from "Athalie," and in the following order:

Mrs. Kent and President Hall,
Mrs. Masury and Senator Hoar,
Mrs. Simpson and Mr. Adams,
Mrs. Forbes and Mrs. Marble.

The Regent, Mrs. Daniel Kent, presided, and explained that "by reason of the unavoidable absence of the pastor, Reverend Mr. Garver, who was to have offered prayer, the South High School Chorus and Orchestra, under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Woodman, would open the exercises with 'To Thee, O Country!'"

Mrs. Kent then spoke as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, School Children of Worcester:
"It is not the part of any one to welcome you to exercises commemorative of the first school house in

Worcester, for the men and women, boys and girls, of Worcester and of Worcester County, must feel proprietary interest in them.

“I do not intend to trench upon the province of the distinguished speakers of the day. I cannot, however, refrain from thanking you all, in the name of The Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter, for your interest in our work and for honoring us by your presence.

“There is one point upon which we may congratulate each other:—the site of our first school house has been settled for all time, as has the fact that it was over this school, instead of the second, John Adams, afterward President of the United States, presided as Master.

“In appointing a committee to conduct the untiring research necessary to settle, if possible, this long discussed question, I was so fortunate as to induce Mrs. Charles Francis Marble to accept the chairmanship. How well and how faithfully she has executed the trust and performed the duty the splendid result bears witness; and I desire thus publicly to pay tribute to the Committee on Historical Research and Marking Local Sites, and to Mrs. Marble, its able and indefatigable chairman. We extend to this committee our gratitude and our thanks.

“If the illustrious master of that simple little school house could be with us to-day he would be gratified, as we are, to listen to one whose profound scholarship entitles him to speak as an authority. I do not know whether Worcester is prouder of Clark University or of

the University's distinguished President. I have the great honor of presenting President Hall."

PRESIDENT G. STANLEY HALL: "An expert in neither history nor antiquarian research and preceding two facile masters in these fields, my humble task must be as a citizen of Worcester to express the satisfaction we all feel to-day in being able—thanks, Madam Regent, to the careful and, I judge, exhaustive bit of investigation by your committee of The Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution—to mark by a permanent tablet the spot which associates this city with the early life of one of the greatest of that group of great men who made this nation. My preparation had to be limited to reading the few and fragmentary pages of the Diary of John Adams who, as a boy of nineteen just from college, came to this town of 1,500 inhabitants in 1755 and spent the three following years, at an age when the average youth of to-day is an undergraduate, in the service of the nascent public school system to which the country has since owed so much that is best in it. In these meagre, personal notes, written with no thought of publication, we find him often drinking tea with the Chandlers, Greens and Thayers, names honored here ever since; first intending to study for the ministry and reading Tillotson, Hutchinson, Butler's Analogy; Milton, the New Testament in the original; discussing sermons and wrestling with some of the mysteries of theology; copying great authors for style, as Cicero rewrote Demosthenes. Then, but less seriously, he thought of a medical career, but at last resolved, while here, upon the law as best suited to his abilities and his taste for public affairs. He was a severe critic of himself and of all the faults that he found in his own character, most of which probably those that knew him best would have least suspected, he deemed laziness the worst. Some of his entries are—"rambled about all day, gaping and gazing;" "not one new idea this week;" "dreamed

away the time ;” “ I know not what has become of these days,” etc. He resolved to rise at four-thirty in March and again with the sun in summer, but usually rose at seven. He did not realize, as we now know, that the ideals of youth, which are proverbially the best materials of prophecy, are best nourished in adolescent reveries, or that they are but the circumnutations of the young vine before it has found the proper support upon which to mount.”

Dr. Hall here read further extracts from the diary of John Adams.

“ It was once a widespread idea, to which many thoughtful minds are now reverting, that a little post-graduate schoolmastering is one of the very best preparations for each and all of the learned professions or for a public career, because it gives just the knowledge of human nature, which this young pedagogue shows in this passage he is learning. The young are transparent; their souls are not yet clad in the disguises which in adults are so hard to penetrate; and, to be successful, a teacher must learn the art of understanding motives, controlling conduct, directing interest, and bettering character. The town of Boyville was old when Nineveh was a hamlet, and its life is that of the world reduced to just the dimensions suited to the powers of young men, so that thus they can perhaps learn the great world in the small. No historian can ever recall just what this country owes to the wisdom, which so many great Americans have gained in the pedagogue’s seat where they have often learned far more than they have taught. As an apprenticeship to life and to practical dealing with men, school teaching, I believe, is about the best and perhaps the only school where common sense can be learned, something which psychology cannot analyze, but which might almost be called the American muse—as characteristic of the genius of our people as is *Gemuth* of the Germans or *esprit* of the French. Thus teachers of every grade, who shall hereafter tell their children the story of the tablet we to-day unveil,

should do so with fresh pride in their own vocation, because we are all of us successors of John Adams, early school master of Worcester, and although if we have dreams of empire for ourselves they may not come true as his did, despite the fact that so many of our best Presidents have been teachers, we in our several classrooms rule a commonwealth so like the State, that Plato held that in the ideal republic the rulers should always be chosen from among the guides and inspirers of youth.

“ I need ask no apology from the distinguished descendant of John Adams, who is our guest to-day, if before closing I turn a little aside to draw another lesson from this occasion, which recent public interest has, as I believe most happily, now made timely. It is a biologic law that those who achieve greatness for themselves have often seemed to do so at the expense of their posterity. Individuality may be so full blown as to enfeeble the power that transmits the sacred torch of life, according to the well-known law of the inverse ratio of individualization to genesis. But if one part of heredity is worth a hundred parts of education, it follows that all culture whatever, bought at any expense of this function, is not worth its price, for that most ancient wealth and worth that is given by blood is the most precious thing on earth. John Adams had five children, one of whom, as the world knows, was John Quincy Adams. These five bore sixteen in the next generation, one of whom was Charles Francis, the elder. The Adams book does not continue the pedigree in the female line, nor is it quite up to date, but at this rate of increase our guest, in the eighth generation from Henry Adams of Braintree, who, when he came to this country, in 1632 or 1633, brought with him eight sons and a daughter, would be one of a generation of 51. The generation to which his children belong would number 163, and that of theirs 526. I do not know whether this rate of increase has been maintained, although the more than 1,200 pages of the Adams book suggest it in some branches of the family, nor do I know how far qualitative may have taken the place of numerical increase, but in the discus-

sions of to-day this family has come into a new prominence as illustrating and justifying the hope that neither the tense conditions of our American life in general, nor generations of the highest education in particular, need to cause decline in the old American stock or to multiply the farms of New England, abandoned because the families are extinct, or cause the sceptre of eminence and public service to pass from the older to the newer comers to our shores.

“The gravity of the problems thus suggested is seen in a few figures that fairly sample a very laborious census, begun at Clark University a year and a half ago and now ready for publication, and embracing the records of ten of our largest and oldest colleges.”

At this point the speaker gave copious figures from Harvard and Yale, illustrating the same point for women's colleges.

“There is a modern variant of the doctrine of the ancient Stoics that at the end of their great cycle of 10,000 years the world was made a *tabula rasa* and started afresh after every vestige of the past had been wiped out, but that in each successive era history repeated itself in the smallest details. One man alone was allowed to live over into the next period, the last man of the old and the first of the new era, viz., the best representative of the strip that had most frequently realized the promise to Abraham that his seed should be as the stars of Heaven in number. Perhaps the name we now commemorate will thus again be born in a new Eden as the father of the next edition of humanity. However this may be, the new alliance now so suggestive between biology and politics teaches us that civilization may best be defined as man's domestication of himself; that the statesmanship of the future will concern itself not only with the present, but with future generations; not with individuals or classes only, but with races; not with present, but what Mr. Kidd well char-



acterizes as projected racial efficiency; that no state rests on indestructible foundations till man has made for himself such an environment that the race increases from its own resources without too great dependence upon immigration; that the social classes do not rotate too rapidly, the higher being plowed under and the lower coming to the top; and that the great family tree of life be so cultivated as to bring most children to the completest maturity. This will be the criterion by which to judge not only the State, but the school, the family, and the church."

MRS. KENT: "In its best and broadest sense patriotism is cosmopolitan. We have with us to-day an uplifter of humanity; a worthy descendant of a signer of the immortal Declaration of Independence; one whose gracious presence is both benison and inspiration. It is with a feeling of especial pride and gratefulness that I present Worcester's venerated and best loved citizen; America's eminent son, Senator Hoar."

SENATOR HOAR: "I do not mean to take much part in this ceremonial. I have come only to declare my gratitude to the ladies of this society and the other kindred societies, for what they are doing to keep alive the memory of our local history.

"Human nature, certainly American human nature, is so constituted that there is no inspirer like local association. No labor of historian, no eloquence of orator, will stir the heart of youth to the love of country, and a desire to emulate the great deeds of the past, like a visit to the spot which has been familiar with the presence of great men, or the scene where great deeds have been enacted. The boy will listen carelessly to the story of the 19th of April, or the Fourth of July, or the 22nd of December. But he will not forget a visit to Concord, or Plymouth or Independence Hall.

“If we cannot claim that Worcester has been the scene of events like these, yet it is pleasant to recall that the figures of men who took part in them were familiar to her streets and dwellings. The spot where we are gathered was well known in the time of the Revolution to those illustrious and venerable characters.

“Close by, as the tablet tells you, John Adams taught the children of Worcester the rudiments of sound learning. I think we may be quite sure that he did not forget the principles of liberty.

“On the spot where the court house stands lived Isaiah Thomas, the patriot printer. His house is now to be seen within a few rods of us. On the site of this church was Mr. Thomas’s printing office. Dr. Franklin, the most illustrious printer that ever lived since printing was invented, visited Dr. Thomas at his house, and struck off from an old press, now owned by the American Antiquarian Society, a page for which he had himself set the type.

“Just opposite is the room where Washington breakfasted when he made his journey through New England in 1789. When I came to Worcester there was standing two doors to the south of us the old house to which, the week before the battle of Bunker Hill, Gen. Warren, who was a widower, brought his children and Margaret Schollay, the lady to whom he was engaged, to remove them from the dangerous neighborhood of Boston. I myself saw the names of Joseph Warren and Margaret Schollay, written by him with a diamond on a pane of glass in the window. About the same distance in the other direction, still stands the old Salisbury mansion, built by Mr. Salisbury on land bought of John Hancock. Hancock had a summer residence for sixteen years a little farther north on Lincoln Street. Half a mile to the northwest is the birthplace of George Bancroft.

“In the square just opposite, lived for a long time, and died, Timothy Bigelow, who commanded the old fifteenth regiment, the best organized and best drilled regiment in the Revolutionary

Army. A little later, on the steps of yonder court house, Artemas Ward dauntlessly confronted the turbulent mob in the time of the Shays rebellion, and subdued them to quiet and order by the dignity and authority of his presence.

“There is, so far as I know, no authentic tradition of the presence of Sam Adams in Worcester. But his near kindred dwelt here. His nephew, Joseph Allen, who was to him as a son, and whose own illustrious son sometimes almost seemed to be Sam Adams come to life again, dwelt here. Sam Adams's sister was the wife of a clergyman in Boylston, six miles away. I suppose some of his kindred are in the audience to-day. So it is likely that his figure was familiar with our streets and dwellings.

“In 1774 and 1775, the street in front of us was alive with the excitement of the opening scenes of the Revolution.

“In September, 1774, about 5,000 men occupied the street in front of where we now stand, arranged under their leaders in companies six deep and extending for a quarter of a mile. Through this multitude the royal judges and their assistants passed safely to the court house. There they were compelled to stay proceedings and to promise not to execute the unconstitutional acts of parliament.

“For any man who loves the history of his country, it is easy to fancy the factories and stores and dwellings, and the bustling throngs of our busy Main Street all gone, and the old colonial houses with their gardens and front yards, and the venerable figures of the men of the Revolution here in their stead.

“Washington and Franklin and Adams—we can almost see them. We can almost touch the hem of their garments. Washington and Franklin and Thomas and Hancock and Warren and Bigelow and Sam Adams and John Adams—

‘The passing of their beautiful feet
Gladdens the pavement of the street.’

“For myself, there is no one of them, not even Washington

or Warren, that I should like better to have seen and known than brave and honest old John Adams.

“He was the great constitutional lawyer of the Revolution. It is remarkable, and it may be unfortunate, that both he and Jefferson were absent from the convention that framed the constitution. John Adams was in England and Jefferson was in France. Whether the compromises of the constitution would have been possible if they had been there, I cannot tell. But I think a body of which Adams was an influential member would not have adjourned without accomplishing its work. This, however, is the merest speculation. It certainly would not have left the constitution without a bill of rights.

“Sam Adams was a great organizer of political forces. He would have been known, if he had lived to-day, as a wire-puller. But the forces he organized were those of righteousness and liberty.

“Mr. Jefferson stands in human history as the foremost man that ever lived, whose influence has led men to govern themselves in the conduct of States by spiritual laws. That was Jefferson’s mission. Observe that I say spiritual laws, and not spiritual truths merely—not formulæ, to be assented to, but rules of life to be governed by and acted upon.

“It was due to Jefferson that our fathers laid deep the foundation of the State in the moral law. They first set to mankind the great example, and exhibited the mighty spectacle—the sublimest spectacle in the universe—of a great and free people voluntarily governing itself by a law higher than its own desire.

“The doctrine of the Declaration was by no means new or original. Our accomplished friend and neighbor, Alfred Waites, pointed out to me the other day, what I had never known before, that a large part of the Declaration of Independence is but a paraphrase, in Jefferson’s matchless style, of the prose writings of John Milton.

“Neither Jefferson nor Sam Adams seemed to have much capacity for organizing the mechanism of government. They

stood for the liberty of the individual. They asserted the freedom of America from the power of parliament. They were for confining the royal prerogatives within strict limits, and if the king would not keep within them, for throwing off his authority altogether. But they seem to have been of little value as makers of constitutions, certainly when you get beyond the bill of rights. Hamilton, on the other hand, trusted to the authority of organized government, and not to the declaration of moral principles, for the safety of the State. He liked the British constitution. He was charged—I dare say truly, though with exaggeration—with a leaning toward aristocracy, or at any rate with trusting to the authority of a few leading minds, rather than to the general sense of the people to control the conduct of the State.

“John Adams occupied a middle ground. He was a great constitutional lawyer. He signed the Declaration of Independence. Anybody who knows John Adams, knows that he never would have signed it if he had not devoutly believed, to the fullest extent, every one of its sublime utterances. But he knew, even better than his great kinsman, he knew far better than Jefferson, that neither law nor liberty could be trusted where the temporary impulse of the people has full and direct sway in government. He knew the value of courts, or constitutional restraints, of deliberation, of the sober second-thought. He knew better than Hamilton that the considerate will of a free people is safer than that of any monarch or of any nobility. He understood, too, better than any other man of his time, with few exceptions indeed, that there are great domains of power into which no government should be permitted to enter.

“It is to the glory of John Adams that he knew how to construct the mechanism which would make Jefferson’s lofty theories living and practical realities and would secure government by the people against the perils feared by Hamilton.

“Jefferson wrote the opening sentences of the Declaration of Independence—that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among

these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness; that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

“Jefferson wrote these sentences. But John Adams signed them. You may be sure he did not sign them unless he believed them. John Adams put in the Constitution of Massachusetts better safeguards against the license of temporary majorities than any conceived by Hamilton.

“The foibles of John Adams endear him to us. The outspoken honesty of the man; the querulousness, the hasty offence and the easy reconciliation, the carelessness for the proprieties of the time or place, the lack of reverence for human dignity. All these things are intensely attractive. He did not willingly submit to any man’s dictation or authority. Independence was the motto on which he acted all his life. ‘Independence forever,’ were the last words that came from his dying lips.

“There is no other of the men of the time of the Revolution, I do not think of any other man in our history, unless it be Grant, who has borne such generous testimony to the service of his great contemporaries and companions and rivals, as John Adams. We have to go to his letters and his diary to find the best things ever said in praise of James Otis, or Hancock, or Sam Adams. It was he that called Washington to the command of the army, and Marshall to the head of the supreme court.

“Take him all in all, Massachusetts has no better model for her youth. She has no more glorious character in her history. We will stand by him. We will stand by our brave old man against all critics and all detractors.

“I do not know but I ought at some time to make a confession. I may as well make it here:

“In 1865, Governor Andrew called the attention of the legis-

lature of Massachusetts to the act of congress of July 2, 1864, which set apart the beautiful old hall of the house of representatives in the capitol, as a national statuary hall, and authorized the president to invite each and all the States to provide and furnish statues in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown, or for distinguished civic or military services, such as each State shall determine to be worthy of this national commemoration.

“The governor suggested the appointment of a commission to report a plan of co-operation on the part of Massachusetts. The legislature took his advice. He afterward appointed John G. Palfrey, Richard Frothingham and Solomon Lincoln as commissioners, to select and propose to the legislature the historic persons to be in that way commemorated by Massachusetts. The commission reported seven years after. It was agreed that one of the statues should represent the Revolutionary period, and one that of the revolution. They were all agreed upon John Winthrop for the first. When it came to the second figure, Mr. Palfrey and Mr. Lincoln were for John Adams and Mr. Frothingham was for Sam Adams. The two reports stated admirably the argument of each side. These reports were sent to the joint committee on federal relations. Their report, made by Frederick W. Lincoln, the eminent mayor of Boston, was unanimous for Sam Adams.

“It is noticeable that the committee grounds its argument for preferring him almost wholly on the generous and eloquent testimonial of his great competitor.

“It was understood that the legislature was divided, as the original commission had been, and the matter remained undetermined some years longer.

“Meantime, many other States, among them our neighbors—Rhode Island and Connecticut, were selecting their representatives. It seemed strange that Massachusetts should be behind them. I was then the senior member of the delegation in the

house of representatives. I addressed an earnest letter to Governor Claflin, to which I obtained the approval of the entire delegation, calling his attention to the fact that our pedestals were still vacant, and urging upon him that the legislature ought to settle the matter without further delay.

“No man loved and honored John Adams more than I did. But it seemed to me that the even-hanging balance in which the claim of the two famous kinsmen had been weighed so long ought to be inclined at least by the thought of the ample compensations which life had brought to John Adams for his services in the cause of his country. I can conceive of nothing which the human heart can desire in satisfaction of a pure ambition, which did not fall to his lot. As was well said by Mr. Webster, ‘He was attended through life by a great and fortunate genius. He had written his name where all nations should behold it, and where all time should not efface it.’ He lived to see the independence of his country achieved. His was the rare good fortune to take part in a great revolution from its beginning to its successful issue. The proscribed rebel was received by the sovereign who had hated him as the representative of a great and free people. He was deemed by his countrymen worthy to be associated with Washington in the inauguration of the government, and succeeded him in the great office of the presidency. He was the foremost champion of the Declaration of Independence on the floor of congress, and his famous prophecy will cause his name to be remembered by his countrymen as its anniversary returns until time shall be no more. He was the chief author of the Constitution of his native State. He rejoiced in the congenial companionship of one of the most affectionate of wives and most intellectual of women. His life ended on the spot where it began, at the great age of ninety, in a strong, vigorous old age, made happy by private affection and public reverence. By a coincidence almost miraculous, his death took place when millions of his countrymen, happy and at peace, under the presidency of his son, were celebrating the great day he had made

famous. 'If the chariot and horses of fire had been vouchsafed to him, he could scarcely have had a more splendid translation or departed in a brighter blaze of glory.'

"Samuel Adams, on the other hand, lived and died poor. His only son preceded him to the grave, leaving none to inherit his name. He held no considerable public office, except that of delegate to the Continental Congress, until he succeeded Hancock as governor in his 72d year, when, in his own opinion, the weight of years and infirmities was beginning to unfit him for further service.

"It seemed to me also quite certain that the statues of all the presidents of the United States would sooner or later be placed in the capitol by national authority. So I took the responsibility of urging the delegation and congress and the governor to prefer Sam Adams for that special honor.

"After all, after all, it is of little importance to either. Monuments and statues are not for the dead, but for the living. So long as in every generation the youth of Massachusetts learn their lesson from this great school master, the Commonwealth he loved and served, for whom he wrote her Constitution, the immortal text-book of Liberty, will abide. If our youth sit at the feet of other teachers, and learn other lessons, Massachusetts also will be of the past, with nothing save some tablet to commemorate the spot once consecrated by her beautiful but forgotten life."

MRS. KENT announced that the chorus would sing Kipling's "Recessional."

MRS. KENT: "There are in Massachusetts 4,000 patriotic and enthusiastic Daughters of the American Revolution. As their chief they have elected a lady widely known for her executive ability and rare tact in leadership. The honored State Regent of Massachusetts, Mrs. Charles Henry Masury."

MRS. MASURY: Madam Regent:—"I come to bring the greetings of the State to the Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. I bring the greeting of the Commonwealth to the Heart of the Commonwealth; to lay at the feet of our honored Senator Hoar the allegiance and loyalty of the Daughters of the American Revolution of the old Bay State. Much has been said to-day of the man, John Adams. I wish to say a word for the woman, Abigail Adams; to call to your remembrance the scene when she stood with her son on the heights of Quincy listening to the firing at Bunker Hill, pouring into his childish mind her own enthusiasm for liberty. Nor did she stand alone. From colonial home and from log cabin alike the women of the Revolution helped to uphold the men. They planted the seed, and reaped the harvest; tended the cattle, and reared the children; gathered the flax and spun the garments, and to their industry and enthusiasm America owes her debt for freedom.

"The women of to-day are no less patriotic than the women of the Revolution, and the forty-four thousand Daughters of the American Revolution, well organized, pledged to 'Home and Country,' stand ready to respond to any patriotic call. A noble band of women, held together by the National Society at Washington, they have accomplished much work in marking historic spots, placing tablets, preserving historic houses, erecting monuments, sun-dials, presenting prizes to the public schools for essays on historic subjects, teaching foreign-born children the principles of American liberty, and in patriotic meetings teaching the noblest and loftiest of truths.

"It has been said 'God sifted a whole nation that he might send choice grain over into this wilderness;' if this be true, then it is the mission of the Daughters of the American Revolution, descended from the first seed, to help teach the youth of our country, extending to the far away islands of the sea, our les-

sons of freedom ; let all that is best in our government be given to the outcast and down-trodden of all nations. Let us not learn from them the lessons of anarchy and socialism but give to them all that is noblest and best, so that America may ever be what her founders intended she should be,—‘The Land of the Brave and the Home of the Free.’”

MRS. KENT: “Our National Society numbers about 44,000 members. It stretches over the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and across those waters to distant countries. We are so happy this afternoon as to have with us Massachusetts’ honored Vice-President General of the National Society, whose patriotism is only equalled by her philanthropy, Mrs. Greenlief Wadleigh Simpson.”

MRS. SIMPSON: “Madam Regent, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: I feel it a great honor and privilege to respond to the gracious and cordial welcome, and to participate in these interesting exercises. We have just held in the city of Washington a very enthusiastic and profitable meeting, and I am very pleased to bring to one and all assembled cordial greetings from the National Board of Management, Daughters of the American Revolution. I congratulate the members of The Col. Timothy Bigelow Chapter on the grand and noble work they have been enabled to accomplish.

“It is well known that for years you have been greatly interested in obtaining an authentic list of the Revolutionary Soldiers who enlisted from Worcester, to find out where they died, and to locate their graves. The work has been carefully accomplished and it is something for which the Chapter may well be proud. On the 30th of May, 1901, the Chapter, in connection with other patriotic societies in Worcester, unveiled a tablet to the memory of the eight revolutionary soldiers, who are buried near the

Timothy Bigelow Monument, which stands upon the common in your city. In the course of his remarks, the orator of the day paid the following tribute to The Timothy Bigelow Chapter: 'We should be lacking in the qualities of appreciation and gratitude if we did not pay a tribute of admiration to the patriotic women of this city, who conceived and have brought to completion this sacred and ennobling recognition of our dead, but not forgotten soldiers.' Your magnanimous offer of a prize for the best three essays upon patriotic subjects, brought a response from forty-seven High Schools in Worcester County. Who can measure the amount of good done? the thoughtful study? the development of patriotism? which is the eternal heritage of all humanity.

"The organization of a Children's Auxiliary is deserving of all praise; would that every Chapter might follow your example, to organize and carry on the completion of this important part of our work; then a vast army would be enrolled, armed and equipped to carry on the work we must lay down when the Master calls us to render an account of our stewardship. I have only referred to a small portion of your earnest and untiring efforts to promote the great interests of our Organization, but I must not forget to mention, that the crowning act of your loyalty and love to our great leader, our President General, was when you made her an Honorary member of The Col. Timothy Bigelow Chapter. One and all have a profound interest in the unveiling of this tablet to-day, for in so doing we are perpetuating the principles of liberty and progress and the heroic men and women of the Revolution. For the sentiment of the great body of the people is for the sturdy principles of liberty, equality and individual advancement.

"I would be false to my trust if I did not improve this opportunity to say a few words for Memorial Continental Hall. No more important work engages our attention at the present time than the building of this magnificent structure. We read that the 'Father of our Country' had one thing at heart, and that

was, that the thirteen original States should have memorial buildings in Washington. Now, after one hundred years, the Daughters of the American Revolution have taken up the work and propose to build one memorial building, the finest ever owned by women; one worthy to commemorate our ancestors, the heroic men and women of the American Revolution, who left to us the glorious inheritance of a free Republic. At a meeting of the National Board, November, 1901, it was voted that all fees in payment of life membership be set apart as the nucleus of a building fund. At the first Congress, February, 1892, the permanent fund was officially announced to have reached the sum of \$65,000. Since that time a beautiful building site has been purchased, costing \$50,266.17, and we have in the treasury at the present time \$87,978.95. It is proposed to lay the corner stone October 11th, 1903. As a National Officer I extend to all present a cordial invitation to be present at the interesting ceremonies.

“As I have three minutes of the ten allotted to me, I desire to say a few words in regard to our National Society. It is composed of women lineally descended from the soldiers, the sailors and the recognized patriots, men and women, who achieved American Independence in the War of the Revolution. It was founded in the city of Washington, October 11th, 1890, eighteen women signing the formal draft of organization. To-day we have six hundred Chapters, and a membership of about forty-four thousand, Massachusetts alone having sixty-two wide-awake Chapters, and four thousand noble, loyal, devoted Daughters. Is not this a record of which we may well feel proud, that in twelve years of our history we have had such a phenomenal growth? The vast amount of work accomplished by the Chapters in all States of our Union, especially in our own State, and the large amount of money contributed, seem almost incredible. Every year our expenses are met and a surplus transferred to Memorial Continental Hall fund. This year our expenses were \$25,462, and during the twelve years of our existence we have contributed \$138,245 to Memorial Continental Hall fund.

“Your Chapter merits and receives the thanks and gratitude of the National Society, for your magnificent work, your grand efforts for broader education, the development of patriotism, for the munificent amount contributed to Memorial Continental Hall, and the supreme privilege of erecting to-day this memorial to our Revolutionary Hero, John Adams, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Framers of the Constitution of Massachusetts, second President of the United States, and Worcester's most illustrious school master.

“As Daughters of the American Revolution, may we not look forward hopefully and confidently, as with renewed interest and strength we engage in an ardent service of our country. For the pleasure of being present, and for your kind attention, I sincerely thank you.”

MRS. KENT: “One of the most active and influential members of the committee which framed the Declaration of Independence was John Adams, the life-long friend of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson; Vice-President under President Washington; second President of the United States and father of the sixth President. It is a ‘knightly, time-honored line.’ I have the privilege and honor of introducing the great-grandson of President John Adams, Honorable Charles Francis Adams.”

MR. ADAMS: “Called upon as a descendant of John Adams, and as the representative here of his descendants, I speak under embarrassment. Nevertheless, I will not pretend to conceal the satisfaction, and more than satisfaction,—the gratification, with which I have listened to the remarks of those who have preceded me. Especially have I felt the kindly and sympathetic tone which pervaded the carefully prepared utterances of Senator

Hoar; for sympathy and kindliness have not always and everywhere been conspicuous in what has been said of John Adams. In what I may now add, I have no intention of following the lines of thought pursued by either President Hall or Senator Hoar; and, moreover, I propose to be brief. Indeed, had I come here prepared with any elaborate production, I am obliged to confess I should have found my speech made in advance of my being called upon. The ground has already been covered.

“ Nevertheless, I am here not altogether empty-handed, for I have brought with me one interesting contribution so peculiarly appropriate to the spot and the occasion that it seems indeed to belong rather in Worcester than among the papers of the family of which I am a member. I refer to the manuscript diary of John Adams, now in my hand, the interesting portions of which have long since been published, while from it liberal quotations have to-day been made. Here it is, yellow with age; a few small sheets of coarse writing-paper, stitched together, covered by those closely written characters peculiar to a time when the material on which to write was both poor and costly. What is on those pages was written here, in Worcester, then a place of 3,000 inhabitants, close upon a century and a half ago. It has to-day come back to the place, so to speak, of its birth, for the first time. I cannot leave it among the archives of the American Antiquarian Society, though there it properly belongs; for it is not mine to give. Perhaps it is better so; for it necessarily is a part of that larger accumulation of manuscripts relating to John Adams and his times, which is elsewhere preserved. But here, to-day, it is of the occasion.

“ Turning now to the general subject, I ask your patience while I, from the manuscript, read a few words written here in Worcester midway in the eighteenth century. When a young man of twenty-one, John Adams sat in his teacher’s chair in the building which stood almost where we are now gathered, and, on the 15th of March, 1756, he thus moralized :

‘ I sometimes in my sprightly moments consider myself, in

my great chair at school, as some dictator at the head of a commonwealth. In this little state I can discover all the great geniuses, all the surprising actions and revolutions in the great world, in miniature. I have several renowned generals but three feet high, and several deep projecting politicians in petticoats. . . . In short, my little school, like the great world, is made up of kings, politicians, divines, fops, buffoons, fiddlers, sycophants, fools, coxcombs, chimney sweepers, and every other character drawn in history, or seen in the world. Is it not, then, the highest pleasure, my friend, to preside in this little world, to bestow the proper applause upon virtuous and generous actions, to blame and punish every vicious and contracted trick, to wear out of the tender mind everything that is mean and little, and fire the new-born soul with a noble ardor and emulation? The world affords no greater pleasure.'

'A little more than four years later, at Braintree, he, now a lawyer rapidly rising in his profession, thus referred to Worcester and his bygone schoolmaster life :

'There the mischievous tricks, the perpetual, invincible prate, and the stupid dullness of my scholars, roused my passions, and with them my views and impatience of ambition.'

'Let us now, like one of Shakespeare's choruses, eliminating the intervening nineteen years, transfer the scene from Worcester, in 1756, to Philadelphia, in 1775. In 1775 the former school master was himself a member of a deliberative body representative of a nascent people. He was there actually to do what he had amused himself by attempting in imagination,—that is, in the body of which he was a member, he was to discover great geniuses, if such were there,—men who were in deed, and not in imagination, to rule the actions and revolutions of the world, and he was to invoke renowned generals, bringing them to the front. In that assembly, known as the Continental Congress, made up, doubtless, in good part, like his school, of politicians and of divines,—and not without its representation of those others he had enumerated,—it was for him to bestow the proper applause upon virtuous and generous actions, and fire the newborn soul with a noble ardor and emulation. In all modesty, though a

descendant, may I not challenge denial when I say,—All that he did! Again, let me quote from his record,—the record made by himself of events which occurred in April, May and June, 1775,—the days between the Lexington-Concord fight and the conflict on Bunker Hill. An improvised army, suddenly collected, then lay before Boston,—an army of New England Yankees, organized by the several provinces, commanded by officers holding their commissions each from his own province, and recognizing no single head; and those provinces were separated by an interval of time and space from the sister provinces, south of the Hudson, almost prohibitive of that close intercourse and quick community of thought and feeling essential to any concentrated action. Steam and electricity had not then done away with miles and hours. The problem before the Congress was, as it has so often been since, one of union; and in union, and union alone, was resisting strength. Could jealousies, suspicions and opposing interests be done away with, at least for the time, and out of separate provinces, one temporary commonwealth improvised? The emergency was great and urgent; rarely has a more important question called for some one man to rise, and utter the decisive word. Communities notoriously jealous of their independence, suspicious of outsiders, must be made to yield precedence,—to see in a large way the one thing needful now to be done. The immediate question was of the adoption of that army of Yankee farmers by the Continental Congress, and the selection for it of a commander-in-chief. Was the struggle to be nationalized? Would Massachusetts then evince a local, jealous and self-asserting spirit? Would the stubborn Puritan Commonwealth insist upon the lead of its own off-spring,—declare for those already holding its commission? What would have been more natural? How could the demand, if made, be refused? And yet, what would have been the consequences of acceding to it? Looking back through a century and a third of materialized history, it may safely be affirmed that not only was the final solution of the conflict for independence involved in the issue

of that debate, but subsequent nationality also. Who was to take the lead,—who speak the incisive word?

“John Adams, I submit,—the former Worcester school master,—then came to the front, rising to the full height of the great occasion. He solved the problem. He has given us an account of what occurred. I quote from his published writings :

‘Every post brought me letters urging in pathetic terms the impossibility of keeping the army together without the assistance of Congress. I was daily urging [this], but we were embarrassed with more than one difficulty, not only with the party in favor of the petition to the King, and the party who were jealous of independence, but a third party, which was a Southern party against a Northern, and a jealousy against a New England army under the command of a New England General. . . . The intention was very visible to me that Colonel Washington was their object, and so many of our staunchest men were in the plan, that we could carry nothing without conceding to it. . . . In canvassing this subject, out of doors, I found, too, that even among the delegates of Virginia there were difficulties. The apostolical reasonings among themselves,—which should be greatest,—were not less energetic among the saints of the ancient dominion than they were among us of New England. In several conversations, I found more than one very cool about the appointment of Washington. . . . Full of anxieties concerning these confusions, and apprehending daily that we should hear very distressing news from Boston, I walked with Mr. Samuel Adams in the State House yard, for a little exercise and fresh air, before the hour of Congress, and there represented to him the various dangers that surrounded us. He agreed to them all, but said,—“What shall we do?”—I answered him, that he knew I had taken great pains to get our colleagues to agree upon some plan, that we might be unanimous; but he knew that they would pledge themselves to nothing; but I was determined to take a step which should compel them and all the other members of Congress to declare themselves for or against something. “I am determined this morning to make a direct motion that Congress should adopt the army before Boston, and appoint Colonel Washington commander of it.” Mr. Adams seemed to think very seriously of it, but said nothing.

‘Accordingly, when Congress had assembled, I rose in my place, and in as short a speech as the subject would admit, rep-

resented the state of the Colonies, the uncertainty in the minds of the people, their great expectation and anxiety, the distresses of the army, the danger of its dissolution, the difficulty of collecting another, and the probability that the British army would take advantage of our delays, march out of Boston, and spread desolation as far as they could go. I concluded with a motion, in form, that Congress would adopt the army at Cambridge, and appoint a General; that though this was not the proper time to nominate a General, yet, as I had reason to believe this was a point of the greatest difficulty, I had no hesitation to declare that I had but one gentleman in my mind for that important command, and that was a gentleman from Virginia who was among us and very well known to all of us, a gentleman whose skill and experience as an officer, whose independent fortune, great talents, and excellent universal character, would command the approbation of all America, and unite the cordial exertions of all the Colonies better than any other person in the Union. Mr. Washington, who happened to sit near the door, as soon as he heard me allude to him, from his usual modesty, darted into the library-room. . . . Mr. Samuel Adams seconded the motion. . . . The subject came under debate, and several gentlemen declared themselves against the appointment of Mr. Washington, not on account of any personal objection against him, but because the army were all from New England, had a General of their own, appeared to be satisfied with him, and had proved themselves able to imprison the British army in Boston. . . . The subject was postponed to a future day. In the meantime, pains were taken out of doors to obtain a unanimity, and the voices were generally so clear in favor of Washington, that the dissentient members were persuaded to withdraw their opposition; and Mr. Washington was nominated, I believe by Mr. Thomas Johnson of Maryland, unanimously elected, and the army adopted.'

“Pardon me for inflicting upon you so long an extract. Nevertheless, the place and the occasion may justify it. Recently, I somewhere chanced across an aphorism of some shrewd observer of mankind to the following effect:—‘It is astonishing how much good one can accomplish in this world if one is only willing to allow others to have the credit of it.’ It was so here. When John Adams thus assumed the responsibility,—a thing he never, from first to last, was disposed to shirk,—and came forward in the name of Massachusetts, offering the command of New Eng-

land men to Virginia and George Washington, then and there a fateful issue was decided. George Washington became the commander-in-chief of the army of the United States. The decisive word had been spoken; for how could the other provinces refuse the offer of that province from which the army came, and in which the military operations were then in progress? All else,—the formal nomination, the election, and the acceptance of the commission,—were from that moment mere matters of detail. So here, to-day, on the site of the building where young John Adams, the recent college graduate, sitting in his great chair at school, ‘as some dictator at the head of a commonwealth, looked in his little state for the great geniuses, and the surprising actions and revolutions in the great world in miniature,’—here, on this occasion, I appeal to the record as to the success with which he repeated the operation nineteen years later, on the larger stage, and in the maturity of his life and power. Though a descendant of his, I am fain to ask, when has any man done a greater service,—when has any made a more divinely illumined choice? It was a broad-minded inspiration; and, by virtue of it, he did more to influence the course of events through the next ninety years, down to the breaking-out of the great Civil War, than was done by any man between Bunker Hill and Sumter. The hour had come; it was given to him to speak the word.

“I am conscious of violating my promise that I would be brief. I shall, therefore, pass over in few words what yet remains for me to say. I will summarize:—Subsequently, John Adams was the pillar of the Declaration. Thomas Jefferson, his successful, political opponent, succeeding him in the presidency, has so testified. More than any other man, it has been said,—and truthfully said, I think,—John Adams was the incarnated moral energy of the Revolution. He was one of the negotiators, and not the least firm and insistent, of our Treaty of Independence. His name and seal are affixed to it. He was the framer of the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780,—that constitution which, as

Senator Hoar to-day told you, has served as the model upon which the constitutions of too many commonwealths for easy enumeration have since been framed, and are now in operation. He, more than any other one man, was the formulator of the American fundamental government. In September, 1776, as the provinces were entering on the darkest hours of the War of Independence, it was he who first conceived the idea of a trained body of army officers. 'I wish,' he wrote to Gen. Knox, 'we had a military academy, and should be obliged to you for a plan of such an institution; and, characteristically, giving immediate concrete form to the thought, he added, October 1st, a post-script to the still unsent letter,—'This day I had the honor of making a motion for the appointment of a committee to consider of a plan for the establishment of a military academy.' Of this committee Mr. Adams was a member, and two days later it reported in favor of the project. An acorn was then planted; eighteen years were to pass before it germinated; but the oak tree of West Point sprouted at last.

"He who first thus suggested the military academy, later was the father of the national navy. It was 'John Adams's frigates,' as at one time they were derisively called, which, in our second war of independence, that of 1812-15, by the skill of their handling and the weight of their broadsides lifted the United States into a world power. The officers of the infant navy, who, in the hour of deepest gloom on the land, bore the flag to victory on the sea, were almost to a man the appointees of President John Adams. Finally, having made George Washington, of Virginia, commander-in-chief of the Army of the United States during the Revolution, it was later given to him, sitting in the chair of State, to select John Marshall to be, as the head of the Federal Judiciary, the expounder and developer of the Nation's Constitution. No point in this record is, I believe, open to controversy.

"Thus, when John Adams sat here, a youth of twenty-one, in his great chair at school,—when he looked through his little state

and discovered the great geniuses, and dreamed of the surprising actions and revolutions which he there saw in miniature,—he did but forestall the future. He was rehearsing the coming drama on the mimic, village stage of the Worcester school. His renowned generals afterwards materialized in Washington; his great geniuses in Marshall; his surprising actions and revolutions of the world in that Declaration of which he was the pillar, that Constitution of which he was the framer, that Army which he first formally proposed, and that Navy of which he was the founder and the father.”

After the addresses Mrs. Kent said: “In connection with these exercises we desire to call your attention to the old cannon now on the terrace in front of the building of the American Antiquarian Society. It was formerly in the original Antiquarian Building, still standing on Summer Street. Since 1853 it has been attached to the stone base of the iron fence surrounding the present building, forming its northwestern extremity on Highland Street. Mr. Edmund Mills Barton states that Samuel Foster Haven always spoke of it as the town gun. Honorable Stephen Salisbury thinks he remembers that his father told him it was used in the war of the American Revolution. Mr. Salisbury had the cannon unearthed during the first week of this month. The Council of the American Antiquarian Society will probably procure a carriage for the gun and place it permanently upon the upper terrace of its grounds, approximately in its present position. Mr. Salisbury hoped to have this done in time for our celebration to-day, but it has been impossible. The local historian

(Lincoln) refers to it several times, and both Mr. Salisbury and The Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter trust that further knowledge of its history may be obtained through the attention now called to its existence."

Mrs. Kent then announced that the exercises in the church would conclude with the singing by audience and chorus of the Star Spangled Banner. She invited all to adjourn to the site of Worcester's first school house and join in singing America during the unveiling of the tablet by Mrs. Marble.

The officers and guests, escorted by the Worcester Continentals as a guard of honor, and to the stirring music of their band, then marched with the audience to the granite post in front of the Court House and Antiquarian Hall, to which the tablet had been affixed. Before Mrs. Marble spoke, the band played Keller's American Hymn. As the flags divided, displaying the tablet, Mrs. Marble said: "Proud of Worcester's glorious past and confident of her future, The Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, place this tablet upon the site of the first school house in Worcester, whose school master, one hundred and fifty years ago, was John Adams, the second President of the United States."

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